

# ACA IMPLEMENTATION NEWS

UPDATING YOU ON PROGRESS AND AVAILABLE RESOURCES RELATED TO THE  
AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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## In This Issue!

In this issue of *ACA Implementation News*, we will provide links to the most recent resources from the Department and important information about PEAK. This issue also contains the latest enrollment metrics from Connect for Health Colorado and Medicaid.

As a reminder, please send us your ACA implementation questions/suggestions so we can provide timely and relevant information to you. Questions, comments and suggestions should be sent to [ACAImplementation@hcpf.state.co.us](mailto:ACAImplementation@hcpf.state.co.us) for inclusion in upcoming issues of *ACA Implementation News*.

To sign up for *ACA Implementation News* or the Department's ACA Communication Updates, click [here](#).

You can also find us on [Facebook](#), Twitter [@COGovHealth](#), [Google+](#) and [YouTube](#).

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## News of Note

### Medicaid Eligibility for Former Foster Care Youth

Qualifying Former Foster Care Youth are now eligible for Medicaid -- regardless of their income -- up to age 26. Effective January 1, 2014, Colorado's rule was approved at the January 2014 Medical Services Board meeting, and extends Medicaid to former foster care youth who were in Colorado foster care at ages 18, 19, 20 or 21 and were receiving Medicaid. This rule does not apply to former foster care youth who emancipated out of foster care prior to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Former Foster Care Youth have been sent Proof of Medicaid Eligibility letters to their last known address from the state Trails data system. The letters include instruction to providers on billing procedures using the letters.

**The Department encourages outreach workers to prompt Former Foster Care Youth to update their address with their county of residence to receive important information.**

For more information about Former Foster Care Youth Medicaid Eligibility, please see the Department's Frequently Asked Questions on [Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources](http://Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources).

### Request for Medicaid or CHP+ Client Stories

The Department needs personal stories about how Medicaid or Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) has made a positive impact on covered clients. Client stories can help the Department educate other Coloradans about the benefits of health insurance coverage.

With a client's permission, the Department may also use their story when talking with the media or elected officials. **We will not share a client's story without their written permission.**

For more information or if you know of a client that may be willing to share their personal story with us visit:

**[Colorado.gov/HCPF/ShareYourStory](http://Colorado.gov/HCPF/ShareYourStory).**

### Help Improve the HCPF Website

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing website will be changing for the better -- and we need your help. Please take our brief website survey and give us your feedback about what the site does well, what it could do better, and what you'd like to see in a new, client-focused website. **The deadline to complete the survey is March 7, 2014.** Please feel free to share this survey with your networks.

Thank you in advance for being an important part of the site's improvements!



*Improving health care access and outcomes for the people we serve  
while demonstrating sound stewardship of financial resources.  
[Colorado.gov/hcpf](http://Colorado.gov/hcpf)*

## Collaborating to Cover More Coloradans

### *Connect for Health Colorado & Colorado Medicaid Enrollment Update*

On Wednesday, February 19, Connect for Health Colorado and Colorado Medicaid released their latest enrollment metrics. Between October 1, 2013, and February 15, 2014, nearly 208,000 Coloradans have signed up or been approved for health coverage. Since October 1, 2013, Medicaid has enrolled 128,219 individuals under the Medicaid expansion. Of the newly eligible, more than 43% are under the age of 34. Connect for Health Colorado has enrolled 79,779 Coloradans in private health insurance coverage since the beginning of open enrollment.

Enrollment activity continues at a steady pace in February ahead of the March 31 open enrollment deadline for commercial health insurance. March 15 is the next deadline for commercial health insurance coverage that starts April 1. According to federal guidelines, Coloradans who enroll in coverage by March 31 will not be subject to an IRS fee related to the new federal requirement to have adequate health insurance. Enrollment for Medicaid is year-round.

Category	Total	Medicaid	Connect for Health Colorado (private health insurance)
Coloradans signed up for health insurance	207,998	128,219	79,779
Customer Accounts		112,934 (from PEAK)	183,483
Daily Website Visitors (average daily)		4,445	7,000

For more Medicaid enrollment metrics, including by gender, age and county of residence click [here](#). Additional enrollment metrics from Connect for Health Colorado can be found [here](#).

## ACA Communications Webinar Online

The [Department of Health Care Policy and Financing](#), [Division of Insurance](#) and [Connect for Health Colorado](#) released a new joint communications webinar. The webinar discusses how community partners can assist in reaching the uninsured and begin to educate consumers on how to use their coverage. The webinar also provides an overview of the resources available for consumers, partners and providers about the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid expansion, Connect for Health Colorado and the changes to private health insurance.

The new recorded webinar can be found on [Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources](http://Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources) or by clicking [here](#). You can also download the slides by clicking [here](#). You can submit your questions following the webinar to: [ACAImplementation@hcpf.state.co.us](mailto:ACAImplementation@hcpf.state.co.us)

## Social Security Changes

Beginning **August 2014**, the Social Security Administration (SSA) will no longer issue Social Security number printouts in field offices. Individuals who need proof of their Social Security number and cannot find their card, will need to apply for a replacement card.

In addition, beginning **October 2014**, SSA field offices will stop providing benefit verification letters, except in emergency situations.

Benefit verifications are available online, and can be obtained anytime by registering for a **my Social Security** account located at: [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount), or by calling 1-800-772-1213.

**For more information please visit the SSA's resource page:**  
<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/thirdparty/whatnew.html>.

## What's New @ Colorado.Gov/Health

The Department has collaborated with the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs and the Colorado Division of Veteran Affairs to develop a new resources page for Colorado veterans.

Our new [Veterans](#) page offers helpful information about how the Affordable Care Act affects veterans' health benefits -- and don't miss our new collection of [Frequently Asked Questions for Veterans](#).

For a complete list of consumer FAQs regarding the Affordable Care Act click [here](#).

Please help us get the word out about the new consumer website [Colorado.gov/Health](http://Colorado.gov/Health). The site will help answer questions about the Affordable Care Act, the Medicaid expansion, Connect for Health Colorado and the individual mandate. You can find sample promo graphics are [here](#).

## Decommissioning of Old Peak Website on March 16

The [www.peak.state.co.us](http://www.peak.state.co.us) site with the mountain banner will be decommissioned on March 16, 2014. This is the old PEAK site that was replaced by the Salesforce site. Once the site is decommissioned, there will no longer be a redirect to the correct website (<http://coloradopeak.force.com>), and you will receive an error. **Please update your bookmarks as soon as possible.** A message regarding the decommissioning of the site will display in English and Spanish when you access the [www.peak.state.co.us](http://www.peak.state.co.us) site and redirect you in 30 seconds to the <http://coloradopeak.force.com> until March 16, 2014.

The [Colorado.gov/PEAK](http://Colorado.gov/PEAK) redirect to <http://coloradopeak.force.com> does not change and will still be active. We referencing the PEAK site in written communications please use [Colorado.gov/PEAK](http://Colorado.gov/PEAK).

Click [here](#) for screen shots of the new and old PEAK sites. If you have questions regarding the decommissioning of the old PEAK website please contact [CBMS.Liasion@state.co.us](mailto:CBMS.Liasion@state.co.us).

## 12 Month Continuous Eligibility for Children

Beginning March 1, 2014, the Department's twelve month continuous eligibility policy for Medicaid or Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) children under the age of 19 will be implemented. Continuous eligibility ensures children remain enrolled in either Medicaid or CHP+ for 12 months, regardless if their household experiences a change in income or size.

Twelve-month continuous eligibility will help to reduce the movement of children on and off Medicaid or CHP+ due to temporary fluctuations in income, helping to eliminate gaps in coverage.

Continuous eligibility will be applied to all children who are approved, redetermined or active as of March 1, 2014. Continuous eligibility for the child will extend from March 1, 2014 to the child's current redetermination date. Once the child is redetermined, they will have 12 months of continuous eligibility from the redetermination date.

Changes to household income identified by the Income and Eligibility Verification system (IEVS) will not result in action being taken on the eligibility of children in the household for income changes reported within the 12 months of continuous coverage. Income changes may still impact eligibility for adult household members.

For more information on continuous eligibility please see the Department's frequently asked questions [here](#) or go to [Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources](http://Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources).

## PEAK Enhancements & Training Opportunities

This weekend PEAK will undergo additional dynamic enhancements to further streamline the online application for Medical Assistance.

To learn more about the changes being made in the February 23 build, mark your calendars and plan on attending one of the PEAK Outreach and Training webinars where you will learn about:

- Changes to how household members are added
- Changes to how application looks and how details are added
- System issue resolutions

### *Links to register:*

Monday, February 24 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 25 9:00 a.m.

For further information or resources, please contact [PEAKOutreach@bouldercounty.org](mailto:PEAKOutreach@bouldercounty.org).

### Upcoming support calls:

#### ***County Eligibility Worker Post Build Call:***

Monday, February 24

See CBMS Portal for more information.

#### ***Community Partner Post Build Call:***

Thursday, February 27

3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

(877) 820-2831; passcode: 349141#

#### ***PEAK Support Call***

Wednesday, March 5

12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

(712) 432-0220; passcode: 5642211#





## Resources

### Medicaid Benefits Starting 2014

Important information has been released about the Medicaid benefits for 2014. This [fact sheet](#) provides an overview of the benefits for current and newly eligible Medicaid clients beginning January 2014. You can also find this information on [Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources](http://Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources).

### ACA Resources for Health Care Providers

The Department's [ACA Resources for Health Care Providers](#) page is designed to provide all health care providers key information about health care reform. You can view the resources at [Colorado.gov/HCPF/ProviderACAInfo](http://Colorado.gov/HCPF/ProviderACAInfo).

### New Resources for Brokers and Agents

The Department has developed new resources for Agents and Brokers, including a [webinar](#) and [slides](#) on PEAK, [tips for completing](#) and a description of [where to go for help](#). You can view these new resources at [Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources](http://Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources).

### Paper Application Training Online Now

The Department has just released a new online training on the paper application that guides individuals through the paper application, answers common questions and provides you tools. Access the training at [traincolorado.com](http://traincolorado.com) or by clicking [here](#). Questions should be directed to [patricia.montoya@state.co.us](mailto:patricia.montoya@state.co.us).

## Reminders

### Connect for Health Colorado CAC Program

Connect for Health Colorado is now accepting applications for the Certified Application Counselor (CAC) Program. Applications will be accepted through February 28, 2014. Applications will be accepted from organizations only. For more information, please read the [Application Announcement](#) and [Designated Organization Criteria](#).

### PEAK Instructions

Step-by-step instructions for the new PEAK features including how to print a medical card are available under the PEAK Resources heading on [Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources](http://Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources).

### PEAK Technological Support

Community-based organizations and consumers can contact [CBMS.Help@state.co.us](mailto:CBMS.Help@state.co.us) to report technical issues, errors and glitches with PEAK. Please include as much information as possible in your description of the problem. **If you are county staff, you can submit a service ticket through the CBMS portal.**

### Frequently Asked Questions

[Colorado.gov/Health](http://Colorado.gov/Health) is your resource for information about the Affordable Care Act, the Medicaid expansion, Connect for Health Colorado and how to apply for coverage. For a complete list of consumer FAQs click [here](#). Still have questions? Send your questions about Colorado's implementation of the health reform law to: [ACAImplementation@hcpf.state.co.us](mailto:ACAImplementation@hcpf.state.co.us).